

AUTUMN BIRDS OF THE LES CHENEAUX ISLANDS.

BY WALTER C. WOOD.

To the bird observer there is a deep interest and pleasant anticipation in exploring a new section of country, especially where a picturesque wilderness lends an added charm. The exquisite beauty of the wild rice marshes, the deep solitude of the thick cedar woods, the rugged magnificence of the wind-fall tangles and the clear waters reflecting sky and bordering forest form a picture of wild natural beauty never to be forgotten, and such a country is the Les Cheneaux Islands and adjacent mainland in T. 42. N. R. I. W., Macinac county, Michigan.

There is but little cultivated land in the vicinity of these islands. Some tamarack, balsam, pine, and birch trees are to be found, but spruce, hemlock and poplar are more common, while the cedar is the predominating tree and forms extensive swamps.

It is to be regretted that I could not devote my entire time to bird observation, but every opportunity was embraced, and probably very few species escaped notice. Of those observed, however, eight species could not be identified with certainty and are consequently not listed. It might also be mentioned that while no owls were met with one specimen of the Great Horned was shot a few days before my arrival.

Captain John Pollock of the Les Cheneaux Club stated that during his fifteen years residence in the vicinity of these islands he has never observed the Woodcock or Scarlet Tanager, birds he was familiar with in southern Michigan; also a small flock of Passenger Pigeons are observed each year. Of course, as none of these pigeons have been secured their identity is not beyond question. He showed me a nest of the Osprey, from which a gentleman from Chicago took three young and secured the parent birds; and also mentioned one of the Northern Ravens in a pine which had been occupied for many years up to 1900.

The following list represent the birds observed between October 15th and November 15th, 1903:

1. *Colymbus auritus*. Horned Grebe.
2. *Podilymbus podiceps*. Pied-billed Grebe.—These two species could be seen on the bays at all times, the former considered good eating by the residents.
3. *Gavia imber*. Loon.—Several observed.
4. *Larus argentatus*. Herring Gull.—Many seen. Captain Pollock showed me a nest on a small island within 300 yards of the club house, where a brood had been successfully reared during the summer. The pair have nested there five or six years, but no others breed in the vicinity, although the birds may be seen all summer in more or less numbers.
5. *Larus delawarensis*. Ring-billed Gull.—Six were observed one morning on piles in front of club house.
6. *Larus philadelphia*. Bonaparte Gull.—One seen with the last species.
7. *Merganser americanus*. American Merganser.—Common, breeds. Captain Pollock stated that many pairs with young were on the bay during the summer and became very tame, one brood coming to the landing to be fed.
8. *Merganser serrator*. Red-breasted Merganser.—A male dropped into my decoys, but dove at the flash and reappeared out of range. This was the only specimen I could positively identify.
9. *Lophodytes cucullatus*. Hooded Merganser.—Rather common and considered good eating. Pollock says, "a common breeder."
10. *Anas boschas*. Mallard.
11. *Anas obscura*. Black Duck.
12. *Aythya americana*. Redhead.—The various indentations of the bay were covered with wild rice and visited by flocks of the three above species ranging from ten to fifty birds.
13. *Aythya affinis*. Lesser Scaup Duck.—Common.
14. *Clangula clangula americana*. American Golden-eye.—A few small flocks.
15. *Charitonetta albeola*. Buffle-head.—Most abundant of all the ducks. Flocks of 500 or more often seen.
16. *Oidemia americana*. American Scoter.—One bird secured from a flock of five. No others seen.
17. *Branta canadensis*. Canada Goose.—Several small flocks.
18. *Totanus melanoleucus*. Greater Yellow-legs.
19. *Charadrius dominicus*. American Golden Plover.—Flocks of five to twenty of this plover and yellow-legs seen daily and many secured.
20. *Bonasa umbellus*. Ruffed Grouse.—An abundant resident. Its greatest enemies are the foxes and half-starved Indian dogs.
21. *Buteo borealis*. Red-tailed Hawk.—One seen.
22. *Buteo lineatus*. Red-shouldered Hawk.—One seen.
23. *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*. Bald Eagle.—One, adult specimen, came daily to the outer bay.

24. *Falco sparverius*. American Sparrow Hawk.—Several seen.
 25. *Dryobates villosus*. Hairy Woodpecker.—Common.
 26. *Dryobates pubescens medianus*. Downy Woodpecker.—Common. Most abundant of the woodpeckers.
 27. *Picoides arcticus*. Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker.—Most abundant of the woodpeckers.
 28. *Ceophlœus pileatus abieticola*. Northern Pileated Woodpecker.—Common. About 30 seen and one secured.
 29. *Colaptes auratus luteus*. Northern Flicker.—Several observed.
 30. *Cyanocitta cristata*. Blue Jay.—Common.
 31. *Perisoreus canadensis*. Canada Jay.—A rather common and conspicuous species found mainly along the Indian trails and deer runs.
 32. *Corvus brachyrhynchos*. American Crow.—Several seen.
 33. *Pinicola enucleator leucura*. Northern Pine Grosbeak.—Many large flocks noted and a very small percentage in the red plumage.
 34. *Loxia curvirostra minor*. American Crossbill.—Many small flocks observed.
 35. *Acanthis linaria*. Red-poll. One small flock.
 36. *Spinus pinus*. Pine Siskin.—Very abundant.
 37. *Passerina nivalis*. Snowflake.—Common. Always in large flocks.
 38. *Spizella monticola*. Tree Sparrow.—Common.
 39. *Junco hyemalis*. Slate-colored Junco.—Common.
 40. *Melospiza cinerea melodia*. Song Sparrow.—Three seen.
 41. *Lanius borealis*. Northern Shrike.—The only specimen seen was secured.
 42. *Lanius ludovicianus migrans*. Migrant Shrike. Several observed.
 43. *Sitta carolinensis*. White-breasted Nuthatch.—Common.
 44. *Sitta canadensis*. Red-breasted Nuthatch.—Not so abundant as the preceding.
 45. *Parus atricapillus*. Chickadee.—This energetic little bird was distributed throughout the country visited.
 46. *Regulus calendula*. Ruby-crowned Kinglet.—One brought me for identification.
 46. *Merula migratoria*. American Robin.—Several individuals were noted at various times.
 48. *Sialia sialia*. Bluebird.—Several small flocks seen. None observed after November 1st.
- Detroit, Mich.